

**CONGRESSWOMAN CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS' STATEMENT
EDUCATION AND LABOR COMMITTEE
MARK UP OF H.R. 3200
JULY 16, 2009**

Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

Thank you Mr. Chairman. My amendment protects hardworking Americans by prohibiting a tax penalty from being assessed on families making less than \$250,000.

There is no doubt that we need to reform our health care system. But why should reform come on the backs of hard working families?

Families already face tough decisions—such as child care, education and retirement costs. Why are we making their decisions about health care more difficult? Under this bill, every American will be forced to obtain ineffective, but cheaper government-sponsored insurance or effective, but more expensive private coverage.

Some may not want insurance, some may want private coverage, but can't afford it and don't want the government option. Yet, they will be taxed and forced to pay for the expansion of Medicaid and to subsidize coverage for those reaching 400% of the Federal Poverty Line.

Some may argue that the bill provides subsidies to assist with choice.” My answer is why should someone who doesn't want insurance pay for someone who does—moreover, pay for more coverage than someone can afford.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this amendment because the bill before us today is all about punitive enforcement and financial punishment. I do not believe those who work hard and play by the rules to earn a decent living for their families should be penalized.

I yield back the balance of my time.